LIVESTOCK and MEAT SITUATION

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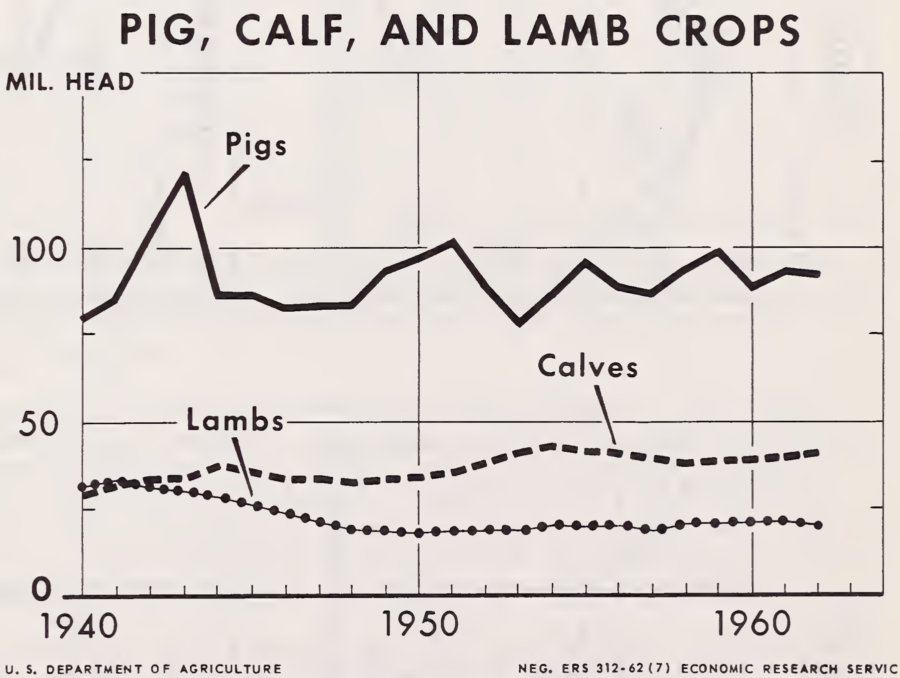
The calf crop is larger this year than last, but the pig and lamb crops are both smaller than in 1961. The calf crop is expected to be 2 percent larger than the 1961 crop and the 1951-60 average. This will be the largest calf crop since 1956.

If hog farmers carry out intentions for 1 percent more fall farrowings, the 1962 pig crop will be about 1 percent smaller than a year ago but 2 percent larger than the 1951-60 average.

The 1962 lamb crop is expected to be down 4 percent from 1961 but 2 percent above the 1951-60 average. This is the largest decline in the lamb crop for any year since 1949.



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MIDYEAR OUTLOOK

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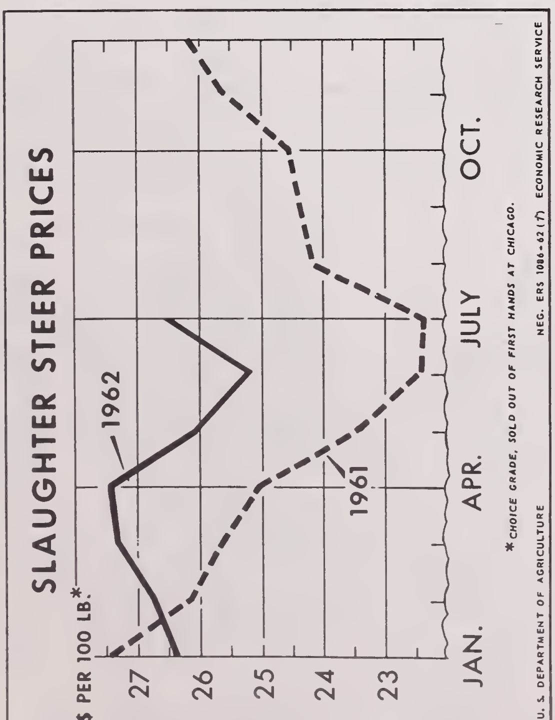
SLAUGHTER STEER PRICES
$ PER 100 LB.*
27
26
25
24
23
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
1962
1961
* CHOICE GRADE, SOLD OUT OF FIRST HANDS AT CHICAGO.
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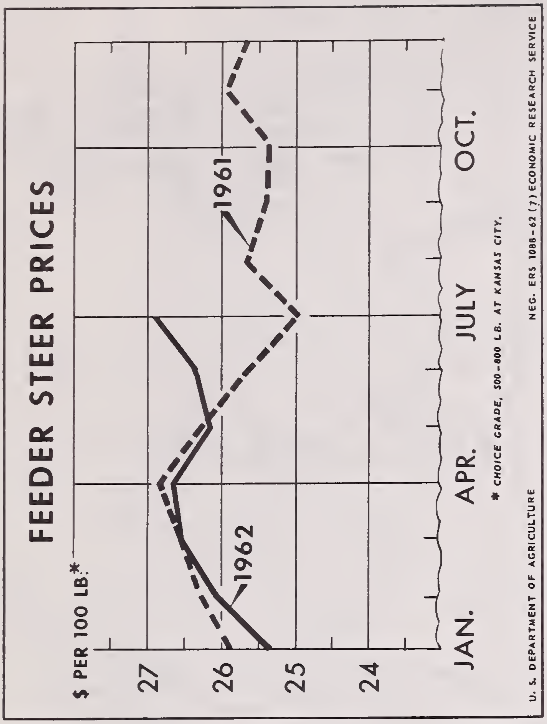
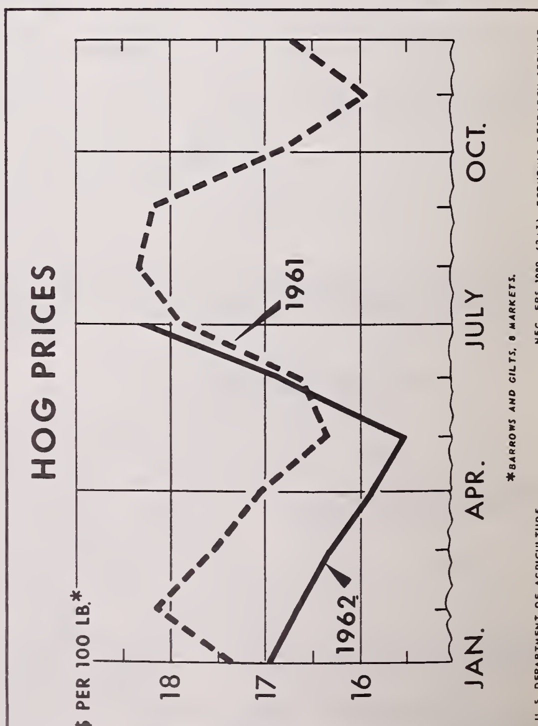
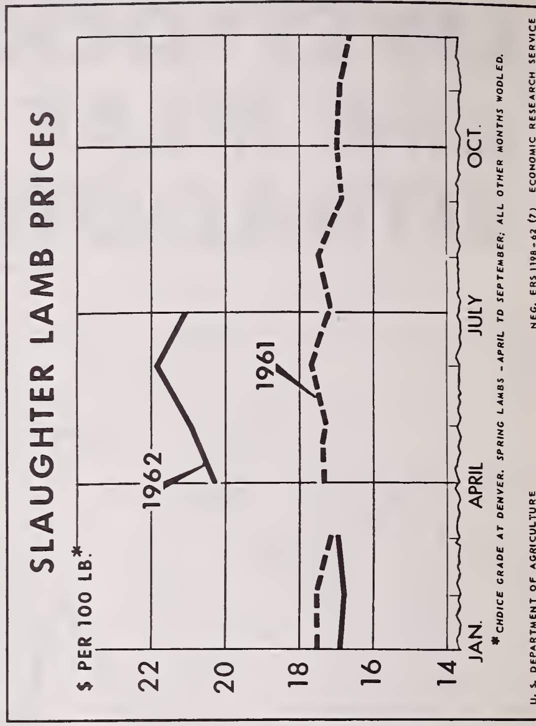

FEEDER STEER PRICES
$ PER 100 LB.*
27
26
25
24
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
1962
1961
* CHOICE GRADE, 500-800 LB. AT KANSAS CITY.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NEG. ERS 1088-62 (7) ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE


HOG PRICES
$ PER 100 LB.*
18
17
16
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
1962
1961
* BARROWS AND GILTS, 8 MARKETS.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NEG. ERS 1089-62 (7) ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE


SLAUGHTER LAMB PRICES
$ PER 100 LB.*
22
20
18
16
14
JAN.
APRIL
JULY
OCT.
1962
1961
* CHOICE GRADE AT DENVER. SPRING LAMBS - APRIL TO SEPTEMBER; ALL OTHER MONTHS WOOLED.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NEG. ERS 1198-62 (7) ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

THE LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, August 9, 1962

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SUMMARY

Supported by stronger demand, meat animal prices generally at midyear were above a year ago. The index of prices received by farmers for meat animals in July was 310 (1910-14=100), up 21 points from July 1961, and 6 points above January this year.

Seasonal increases in livestock marketings are underway. This year's calf crop is expected to be 2 percent larger than in 1961, but most of these animals will be retained on farms. The cattle and calf inventory is expected to increase again this year--probably about the same as last year's gain of 2.0 million head. The 1962 lamb crop is forecast at 20.4 million head, down 4 percent from last year. The pig crop this year will be 1 percent smaller than in 1961, if producers carry out reported intentions for fall farrowings.

Relatively stable fed cattle prices seem probable through the remainder of the summer. Some moderate declines are expected in the fall, with prices probably falling below those a year earlier by the end of the year. Third-quarter marketings of fed cattle will be about the same as a year earlier, but marketings are expected to increase this fall.

Feeder cattle and calf prices may ease downward slightly during the fall but a sharp price break is not expected. Cow slaughter this summer and fall is expected to exceed that of a year before, and prices will decline seasonally. A significant decline in cow prices would put additional downward pressure on prices of the lower grades of slaughter cattle and to a lesser degree on prices of fed cattle.

Feed costs and the cost of feeder cattle were generally higher in the 1961-62 feeding season than a year earlier, but improved prices for fat cattle resulted in higher average net returns. Prospects for profits in the coming feeding season are below last year but about average for the last 8 years. Prices for feeder cattle this fall probably will be close to those last fall, although feed prices likely will be a little higher. Cattle feeding is at a record level, however, and feeders are operating under the threat of possible price weaknesses due to heavier marketings during the late fall and winter period.

Hog marketings throughout this summer probably will be near year-ago levels, but during the seasonally heavy slaughtering period this fall marketings will be under those of last fall. Prices will be slightly above a year earlier this fall. However, this winter prices likely will drop moderately below last winter--if producers carry out their plans for 2 percent more farrowings for this fall's crop.

Marketings of sheep and lambs in the second half of this year will probably be off somewhat more than the estimated 4 percent smaller 1962 lamb crop would indicate. The average price paid to producers for lambs in mid-July was $19.10 per 100 pounds, $3.10 above July 1961. Lamb prices probably will continue to decline seasonally through summer but remain significantly above last year through the rest of 1962.

Production of all red meat in 1962 is currently expected to total about 28.9 billion pounds or slightly over 1 percent more than in 1961. Prospective increases are divided about equally between beef and pork. This increase in output plus imports about equal to a year earlier probably will hold per capita consumption very near last year's rate of 161 pounds per person.

Table 1 .--Summary data on livestock and meat production

Year	Cattle and calves on farms January 1	Number pigs saved during year	Sheep and lambs on farms January 1	Total meat production	Meat consumed per person
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	Million pounds	Pounds
1956	95,900	89,426	31,157	28,035	166.7
1957	92,860	87,362	30,654	26,859	158.7
1958	91,176	93,533	31,217	25,658	151.6
1959	93,322	99,395	32,606	27,319	159.5
1960	96,236	88,387	33,170	28,208	161.4
1961	97,319	93,142	32,967	28,585	161.0
1962 1/	99,500	92,622	31,446	29,980	161.0
1963 2/	101-102	93.5-94.5	30.2-30.5	---	---

1/ Partly forecast. 2/ Forecast.

Table 2.--Price of Choice grade slaughter steers at Chicago and of all stocker and feeder steers at Kansas City, and 7 months lagged margin, by months, January 1960 to date

Year and month	Price per 100 pounds		Margin between slaughter steers and stockers and feeders 7 months previous 2/
	Choice grade slaughter steers, Chicago	Stocker and feeder steers, Kansas City 1/	
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
1960			
January	26.42	23.31	-.82
February	26.69	23.80	.22
March	28.08	25.14	2.12
April	27.76	25.46	2.38
May	27.43	25.38	3.02
June	26.04	23.50	2.70
July	25.64	21.81	3.13
August	25.07	21.23	1.76
September	24.80	20.91	1.00
October	24.94	21.59	-.20
November	26.08	22.54	.62
December	26.86	23.61	1.48
1961			
January	27.42	24.29	3.92
February	26.17	23.70	4.36
March	25.70	24.50	4.47
April	25.05	24.38	4.14
May	23.43	23.06	1.84
June	22.45	21.81	-.09
July	22.38	21.70	-1.23
August	24.13	22.94	-.16
September	24.34	22.61	.64
October	24.55	22.97	.05
November	25.58	23.03	1.20
December	26.13	23.06	3.07
1962			
January	26.39	22.80	4.58
February	26.76	23.16	5.06
March	27.31	24.56	4.37
April	27.45	25.11	4.84
May	26.02	24.18	3.05
June	25.25	23.23	2.22
July	26.50	23.75	3.44
August			

1/ Average for all weights and grades. 2/ Margin between prices of Choice grade slaughter steers at Chicago for current month shown and of stocker and feeder steers at Kansas City 7 months previously.

Market price data compiled from Market News, Livestock Division, AMS.

REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

CATTLE

Cattle Cycle Continues Upward

Cattle inventories will be at a new high next January. The balance sheet for cattle and calves--using January-June data plus projections for the last half of 1962--indicates that the gain in numbers during this year will be about as large as last year's increase (table 1).

The number of cattle and calves on farms January 1, 1962, was 99.5 million head. This year's calf crop is expected to total 40.5 million head or 2 percent more than last year. January-June imports of live cattle were up 41 percent from a year earlier. Out of these supplies, about 16.9 million head of cattle and calves were slaughtered in the first 6 months of this year, nearly the same number as a year earlier. A 1 percent gain in the number of cattle slaughtered was offset by a 5 percent decline in calf slaughter.

Cattle Prices Above Year Ago

The demand for beef has continued strong, and average prices to farmers for beef cattle have been steady to higher this year. This is in contrast to declining prices in the second quarter of last year. The mid-July average farm price for all beef cattle sold was $21 this year compared with $19.20 in mid-July a year ago.

Choice steers sold out of first hands at Chicago averaged $1.50 per hundredweight above 1961 prices during the first 6 months of this year. This price gain was greater in the second quarter than in the first quarter. The January-March 1962 average for Choice steers was $26.82 compared with $26.43 a year before. But in the April-June quarter, prices averaged $26.24 this year compared with $23.64 last year.

A similar improvement in prices occurred at other markets throughout the country. The average price for Choice steers sold out of first hands as 7 markets in the January-June period this year was $25.84--up $1.28 from the average of $24.56 in the comparable period in 1961.

More Steers, Fewer Heifers Included in Slaughter

Steer slaughter in federally inspected plants totaled 5.9 million head in the first half of this year--up 7 percent from the 5.5 million head slaughtered in the same period last year. But during the same half of 1962, heifer slaughter of 2.0 million head was down 9 percent from the 2.2 million head slaughtered a year earlier. However, because steer slaughter outnumbers heifer slaughter by about 3 to 1, the combined total slaughter of steers and heifers during the first half of this year was about 3 percent more than in the like period of 1961.

Marketings out of feedlots in 26 States also increased 3 percent in the first half of this year compared with a year earlier. Thus, fed cattle marketings continued to be equivalent to about 89 percent of the combined slaughter of steers and heifers in federally inspected plants.

The decrease in heifer slaughter in the first half of this year is an indication that more heifers are being kept for addition to breeding herds this year than in 1961. There were 3 percent more beef heifers 1-2 years of age in the January 1 inventory of cattle and calves this year, and the number of yearling heifers (over 500 pounds) on feed then was less than a year ago. Likewise--judging from the makeup of July inventories--fewer yearling heifers were placed on feed in the first half of this year than a year earlier.

On the other hand, the number of heifer calves (under 500 pounds) on feed last January 1 was up 18 percent from January 1, 1961. And more heifer calves apparently were placed on feed in the first half of this year than in the first half of 1961. Therefore, heifer slaughter in the fall quarter likely will exceed year-earlier levels.

Lighter Dressed Weights Limit Increase in Beef Production

Beef production did not increase in proportion to the rise in combined steer and heifer slaughter in the first half of this year. The average dressed weight of steers slaughtered under Federal inspection through June averaged 655.4 pounds and heifers 551.3 pounds. These weights are about 2 percent under the January-June 1961 weights of 668.3 and 560.6 pounds, respectively. Therefore, although steer and heifer slaughter was 3 percent more than in the first half of last year, beef production from steer and heifer slaughter increased by less than 2 percent. If average slaughter weights during January-June this year had been equal to those of a year ago, beef production from federally inspected steer and heifer slaughter would have been up almost 4 percent over a year earlier.

First-Half Beef Production Lags Population Growth

Civilian population on July 1 was estimated at 182.9 million--about 1.4 percent larger than the July 1, 1961, civilian population of 180.4 million. Commercial and farm production of beef in the first quarter of this year was about 3 percent larger than in the comparable period of 1961. But this was largely offset by 2 percent less beef production during the second quarter compared with a year earlier. Therefore, total beef production during the first half of this year was less than 1 percent more than in January-June 1961.

Imports of beef rose sharply the first 6 months of this year, and per capita consumption increased about 0.7 pound during the period compared with these months in 1961. Per capita consumption was estimated to be 44.0 pounds for the first 6 months of this year compared with 43.3 a year earlier. This rise in per capita consumption and higher beef cattle prices are evidence of the improved demand for beef in the first half of this year.

Table 3.--Annual calf crop, 1953-62

Year	Cows and heifers 2 years and older on farms January 1	Calves born	
		Ratio to number cows and heifers on farms January 1 1/	Number
	1,000 head		1,000 head
1953	46,840	88	41,261
1954	48,946	87	42,601
1955	49,121	86	42,112
1956	48,283	86	41,376
1957	46,859	85	39,905
1958	45,430	86	38,860
1959	45,244	86	38,938
1960	45,871	86	39,353
1961	46,370	86	39,911
1962	47,326	86	40,542

1/ Not strictly a calving rate.

Table 4.--Live and dressed weights of cattle slaughtered, January-June, 1956-62

Year	Live weight per head		Dressed weight per head of all cattle slaughtered under Federal inspection	Percentage fed cattle in total cattle slaughter 1/
	All cattle slaughtered under Federal inspection	Steers sold out of first hands, Chicago all grades		
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Percent
1956	1,005	1,145	566	41
1957	998	1,146	559	40
1958	1,012	1,126	567	43
1959	1,055	1,171	607	51
1960	1,043	1,162	600	51
1961	1,050	1,179	609	52
1962	1,041	1,151	603	54

1/ Estimated on the basis of marketing data reported in quarterly cattle on feed reports.

Moderate Increase in Cattle Slaughter Ahead

The number of cattle and calves on feed in 26 States, as of July 1, was 4 percent larger than a year earlier. However, a larger proportion of the cattle-on-feed inventory is concentrated in the lighter weight groups this year. Consequently, marketings of fed cattle during the July-September quarter probably will be no larger than a year before and will be about 5 percent under marketings out of the April 1 inventory. Feedlot operators reported intentions to market 3,330,000 head of cattle during the third quarter of this year compared with 3,339,000 head marketed in the comparable quarter last year, and marketings of 3,595,000 head out of the April 1 inventory during the April-June quarter of this year.

Two factors must be noted. If marketings are to total 3,330,000 head during July-September, the average liveweight of fed cattle marketed will be light. If cattle are held to heavier weights, fewer than 3,330,000 head will be marketed. Either way, supplies of fed beef will not be burdensome during the third quarter. Therefore, prices for fed cattle are expected to remain relatively steady at most markets throughout the period.

What will occur in the fourth quarter is questionable. If July-September marketings total 3,330,000 head as per reported intentions, the carryover from the July 1 inventory of cattle on feed into the October 1 inventory will exceed that of a year earlier by about 9 percent. However, the larger carryover from the July inventory does not mean that marketings in the fourth quarter will be up accordingly. Last year, 39 percent of the cattle marketed in the fourth quarter were placed on feed in the July-September quarter. Therefore, placements of cattle on feed this summer will have an important bearing on the outcome during the October-December quarter. If placements this summer equaled those of a year ago, the October 1 inventory of cattle on feed would be up 4 percent from October 1 a year ago. But three factors lead us to believe that placements this summer might be below a year ago, particularly the placement of heavier feeder cattle.

First, there probably are fewer 2-year-old steers than a year ago. The number of steers 1-year-old and over in the beginning inventory this year was about the same as a year earlier. But federally inspected steer slaughter in the first 6 months of this year exceeded slaughter in the same months of 1961 by about 400,000 head.

Second, last year a severe drought in the Northern Plains forced an early movement of cattle from this area. Many of these animals were moved directly into feedlots. On July 1 this year, range conditions were far better than last year throughout the entire Northern Plains. Hay production in these States was above average.

Finally, a severe drought in Canada forced a large and early movement of Canadian steers last year. Many of these cattle went directly on feed. This year, shipments from Canada throughout the summer months are not expected to equal those of a year ago.

Considering all this, marketings of fed cattle are expected to increase this fall--but not by the 9 percent suggested by the potential increase in carryover from the July 1 inventory of cattle on feed. But marketings during the fourth quarter are expected to be large enough to result in some downward pressure on fed cattle prices, and they probably will fall a little under those last year in November. But if feedlot operators should carry cattle on feed to heavier weights throughout this summer, marketing could be bunched somewhat this fall. However, this does not appear likely.

The outlook for fed cattle prices is not as favorable in the Los Angeles supply area. Feedlots in Arizona and California contained 25 percent more cattle the first of August this year than a year ago. Marketings during the remainder of this summer will be up almost as much, particularly in late August and September. Fed cattle prices in Arizona and California likely will weaken earlier and drop somewhat more than in the Corn Belt.

Marketings of fed cattle probably will continue large in these two States throughout the fourth quarter. If marketings develop as per July 1 intentions, 29 percent more cattle will be carried from the July 1 into the October 1 cattle on feed inventory of Arizona and California. Furthermore, placements on feed in July were up about 25 percent compared with August 1961.

Cow marketings are expected to rise above year-earlier levels through the last half of 1962. Culling of cow herds has been low for 4 years, and during this time milk cow numbers declined more than 2 million head. Therefore, the decrease in culling has been confined mainly to beef cows in the cattle inventory. The net result of the low rate of culling has been an accumulation of aged cows in the beef cow herd.

A similar culling situation occurred during 1949-52. In 1953, federally inspected cow slaughter increased by 1.5 million head. However, this increase did not represent liquidation of cows, because beef cow numbers increased by 1.8 million head and the total cow inventory increased by 2.1 million head that year. Apparently, the increase in cow slaughter resulted from the replacement of aged cows with heifers. However, this heavier culling of aged cows was triggered by drought.

An extended drought has not occurred this year in any Western Range area of significant geographical extent. Consequently, any increase in beef cow culling this year will have to be due entirely to replacement due to age.

Cow slaughter this summer and fall is expected to be larger than a year earlier. A sizeable increase in cow slaughter during the last half of this year would exert some downward pressure on prices for fed cattle, but prices for slaughter cows and the lower grades of slaughter steers and heifers would be down more.

Feeder Steer Prices Above Year Ago; Expected to Continue Steady

The average cost of all feeder steers shipped from 10 markets during July was $23.75 this year compared with $21.55 last July. The increase in the price

of fed cattle during July was accompanied by an increase of about 0.50 cents per hundredweight in the price of feeder steers.

It now appears likely that feeder steer prices will remain relatively stable through the rest of this summer. The bulk of the yearling steers probably will be marketed before prices for fed cattle drop sufficiently to be reflected in lower prices for feeder steers.

The supply of yearling steers available this fall is slightly larger than a year ago, but there probably are fewer 2-year-old feeder steers available this fall than a year ago. The January 1, 1962, inventory of cattle and calves on farms contained about the same number of steers 1-year-old and over as the preceeding year's inventory. However, because of the larger steer slaughter the first half of this year, there were fewer of these steers left on ranches and farms at midyear than last July.

The beef calf inventory this January 1 contained 1,046,000 more head of calves than a year earlier, and imports the first half of this year exceeded imports for the first half of 1961 by 135,000 head. The combined supply of feede cattle, as represented by the January 1 inventory and imports the first half of this year, is about 4 percent larger than the similar midyear supply last year. However, several factors indicate that the available supply of feeder steers and heifers this summer and fall may be up less than 2 percent from last year. First

Table 5.--Prices of feeder steers and calves at Kansas City, per 100 pounds, by months, 1960-62

Month	Good feeder steers, 500-800 lb.			Good and Choice feeder steer calves		
	1960	1961	1962	1960	1961	1962 2/
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
January	23.84	24.09	23.75	27.18	27.44	27.19
February	24.59	23.90	23.91	29.28	27.69	28.70
March	25.37	24.11	24.52	30.44	28.11	28.80
April	25.69	24.31	24.78	30.01	28.32	29.50
May	24.96	23.85	24.37	29.52	28.35	28.98
June	24.37	23.10	24.66	28.52	27.58	28.96
July	23.58	22.86	24.80	27.44	26.96	29.29
August	22.66	23.91	1/25.00	25.97	27.72	1/29.50
September	21.99	23.45		25.50	27.86	
October	21.82	23.61		26.04	27.73	
November	23.16	24.32		27.56	28.00	
December	23.99	24.02		27.05	27.45	
Year	23.84	23.79		27.88	27.77	

1/ 1-week in August. 2/ Choice grade only.

Data compiled from Market News, Livestock Division, AMS

combined steer and heifer slaughter the first half of this year exceeded slaughter the first half of 1961 by 222,000 head. Secondly, imports the last half of this year are expected to fall short of the 658,000 head imported the last half of 1961. Third, more of the beef heifers in the January 1 cattle and calf inventory were destined for addition to breeding herds this year and consequently cannot be considered as a part of the feeder cattle supply.

The stocker-and-feeder calf supply is up about 2 percent this year, as a result of the larger calf crop. However, prices for stocker-feeder calves are somewhat above last year's prices and are expected to hold relatively stable throughout this fall. There is a good growth of volunteer wheat, and prospects for winter wheat pasture are excellent throughout most of the winter wheat area. Furthermore, the calves are now in strong hands due to the good range conditions that prevail throughout most of the West. Ranchers probably will winter a larger proportion of their calf crop than they did last year. Therefore, calves may be in relatively short supply this fall.

1961-62 Feeding Profits Above Average

Cattle feeders generally realized larger net returns during the 1961-62 feeding season than a year earlier. Feed costs and cost of feeder cattle both were higher, but these increases were more than offset by higher prices for fat cattle.

Returns over costs during the past feeding season in a typical Corn Belt feeding operation are illustrative (table 6). In the last season, the price spread between feeder and fat cattle was wider than in the previous 2 seasons. Profits generally were greater for those operators who filled feedlots early, because feeder prices were at the year's low in June and July. The gross margin on feeder-fat cattle, as measured by a 7 months' feeding interval, currently is wider than a year ago (table 2).

Cattle feeding probably will continue to increase next year. Stocker-feeder calves and yearling feeder steers will be available in increased numbers. Feed costs likely will be a little higher than those in the past season but profits from feeding generally were good this year.

Grazing and forage conditions throughout most of the western range country were reported as good as of the first of July. For most of the range area, this is an improvement over June 1 conditions and the 10-year 1951-60 average. Therefore, early movement off of range areas is not expected this year. Consequently, the placement of cattle on feed may be bunched somewhat during the September-November period this year. This could mean that fed cattle marketings will be maintained at a relatively high level throughout the winter and into the early spring period. If this occurs, prices of fed cattle may lag below year-earlier levels from late fall into early spring.

Table 6.--Average prices and costs in feeding steers in the Corn Belt, 1952 to date

Item	Feeding season beginning									
	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Price:										
Choice grade beef steers sold out of first hands, Chicago, April-July, per 100 pounds	22.70	24.24	23.26	21.17	23.72	28.32	29.01	26.72	23.33	26.30
Feeder steers, Kansas City, August-December, per 100 pounds 1/	22.86	16.36	18.74	17.30	17.27	20.94	25.60	24.32	21.98	22.92
Corn, received by farmers North Central States, September-July, per bushel	1.438	1.401	1.370	1.238	1.205	1.019	1.032	.995	.954	.962
Alfalfa hay, received by farmers North Central States, September-July, per ton	23.23	21.88	20.59	19.27	19.17	15.64	16.32	18.85	18.03	19.25
Soybean meal, 44 percent protein, wholesale, Chicago, September-July, per ton	82.85	88.29	72.84	64.69	57.97	63.49	61.75	59.37	63.17	65.30
Sales value, per head:										
Choice steers, 1,050 pounds	238.35	254.52	244.23	222.28	249.06	297.36	304.60	280.56	244.96	276.15
Cost, per head:										
Feeder steer, 700 pounds	160.02	114.52	131.18	121.10	120.89	146.58	179.20	170.24	153.86	160.44
Transportation from market to feedlot	4.14	4.21	4.21	4.21	4.48	4.89	5.30	5.30	4.84	4.62
Corn, 45 bushels	64.71	63.05	61.65	55.71	54.22	45.86	46.44	44.78	42.93	43.29
Alfalfa hay, 0.75 ton	17.42	16.41	15.44	14.45	14.38	11.73	12.24	14.14	13.52	14.44
Soybean meal, 150 pounds	6.21	6.62	5.46	4.85	4.35	4.76	4.63	4.45	4.74	4.90
Transportation and marketing expense	10.29	10.46	10.43	10.82	11.32	11.76	12.53	12.58	11.47	11.58
Total for items shown 2/	262.79	215.27	228.37	211.14	209.64	225.58	260.34	251.49	231.36	239.27
Margin, value over costs shown 2/	-24.44	39.25	15.86	11.14	39.42	71.78	44.26	29.07	13.60	36.88

1/ Average all weights and grades.

2/ Does not include overhead costs, cost of pasture or other feed ingredients and death loss, or credits for manure and for hogs following steers. The feed ration and prices shown are designed to be fairly representative of average feeding experiences in the Corn Belt, but do not necessarily coincide with the experience of individual feeders.

USDA Plans to Buy Frozen Ground Beef

On August 7, USDA announced plans to buy approximately 25 million pounds of frozen ground beef for distribution to schools participating in the National School Lunch Program. Funds for the program are provided under the National School Lunch Act.

Offers for frozen ground beef will be accepted only from vendors operating under Federal inspection in order that the product may be shipped in interstate commerce. Vendors must also be operating in compliance with the Humane Slaughter Act of 1958. The product must be prepared from domestically slaughtered and processed animals, and in accordance with Schedule AA -- "USDA Specifications for Frozen Ground Beef" -- July 1962.

Details of the offers are contained in Invitation to Bid No. 1, Announcement LSP-1. Interested parties may obtain copies and other information from the Livestock Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

Emergency Assistance Authorized for Eastern Drought Counties

As of August 8, farmers in 92 counties in Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey will be permitted to graze livestock and cut hay off land retired uner the conservation reserve, feed grain, and wheat stabilization programs. County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committees in these counties have been granted authority to permit use of forage on retired acres, with prior approval of the County Committee required in each instance. This privilege will end August 31. Downward adjustments will be made in payments to farmers when these lands are grazed or from which hay is cut.

This restriction in the use of lands under conserving uses has been lifted from time to time under emergency conditions. Earlier this year, for example, several Georgia and North Dakota counties were designated emergency areas due to drought, and a few North Dakota and Minnesota counties were so designated because of floods.

In addition to the easing of grazing and haying restrictions on diverted acres, other emergency assistance programs are available to farmers who have suffered severe crop or pasture losses or damage to croplands because of drought or storm. Currently, 290 counties or parts of counties in 23 States have been designated as areas where the Farmers Home Administration may make emergency low-interest loans to eligible farmers. Fifty Pennsylvania counties, 40 in New York, and 7 in New Jersey have been designated emergency loan areas.

Currently, livestock feed assistance has not been offered in the Northeastern drought area. Under this program, eligible farmers in designated counties can buy CCC-owned feed grains (1) at 75 percent of the 1961 support price for feeding "primary" or foundation livestock and (2) at current support prices to

feed other eligible livestock. On August 1, the emergency feed program was available in 75 counties in 4 States, but these designations were expected to terminate August 15.

Three New Jersey counties have been named as eligible for emergency conservation assistance to repair damage to croplands from spring storms. Under this program, funds are allocated for use in sharing with farmers the cost of emergency restoration measures, such as removing debris from land, leveling eroded farmland, or restoring farm drainage and irrigating systems. Cost-sharing assistance is currently available to 62 counties in 13 States.

HOGS

Hog Slaughter, Prices Above Year Ago

Commercial hog slaughter in the first 6 months of 1962 was 4 percent more than in 1961. Hog prices jumped sharply in June, rose slowly in July, and by early August were about $1.00 per 100 pounds above a year before and the highest in nearly 4 years. The average price of barrows and gilts at 8 Midwest markets the last week in May was $15.41 per 100 pounds; the final week in June, $17.85; and the week of August 4, $18.94. The June advance brought prices up to year-earlier levels for the first time since last October.

This price increase was largely an adjustment to the seasonally lower rate of slaughter, although it probably was accentuated by the outlook for slaughter below year-earlier levels in the months ahead and by improved demand for pork. Hog prices have been above a year earlier during the last 2 months, despite higher slaughter rates and lower prices for lard than in the same months last year. The outlook was brightened by the June Pig Crop Report showing a 2 percent smaller spring crop.

Hog Prices To Decline Seasonally

The shift, from marketing from last year's fall pig crop, to marketing from the current spring pig crop, generally occurs in August. This year's spring crop was down 2 percent from last year due to a reduction in the number of pigs saved per litter. However, more sows farrowed in the first half of the spring farrowing season this year than a year earlier. June 1 inventories also indicated that slaughter supplies during the next 3 months will be close to those a year before.

Hog prices will decline, as marketings increase seasonally the remainder of this summer, but may hold close to or a little above year-earlier prices. This fall, prices probably will continue to move lower until near the end of the year. Late this fall, slaughter supplies will be coming from farrowings during the last half of the spring farrowing season. Inasmuch as farrowings during these months this year were below year earlier, prices likely will hold above last year's levels.

Price Discounts
To Widen This Fall

Average market weights have not declined as much as usual this summer, as many producers apparently have held their hogs a week or two longer to take advantage of seasonally higher July prices. Although declining seasonally, price discounts for heavy hogs have been wider than a year earlier. In the first week of August, the average weight of barrows and gilts sold at 8 markets was 222 pounds, 1 pound above a year earlier. The average price at Chicago for 200-220 pound hogs was 28 cents per 100 pounds above the average for 240-270 pound hogs of comparable quality. A year ago this spread was 24 cents.

During the rest of this summer, hogs weighing 240-270 pounds, probably will sell for nearly the same price as lighter hogs. This fall, heavy hogs again will be in relatively ample supply and will sell at a discount. In December last year, the price spread between these weight groups at Chicago was 63 cents, and in January 1962 the spread was 56 cents per 100 pounds.

In June, U. S. hog producers planned for a 2 percent increase in fall farrowings. A fall crop this size would mean an annual crop of about 92.6 million head. (See table 1 and cover chart.)

Growers in 10 of the Corn Belt States planned on June 1 to have 3 percent more fall litters--4 percent more in June-August, and 2 percent more in September-November. Hence, sometime next winter hog slaughter again will be ahead of a year earlier. Price fluctuations in the first half of 1963 probably will be less than usual, with prices averaging only a little below those in January-June 1962.

SHEEP AND LAMBS

Lamb Crop Down 4 Percent

The 1962 lamb crop is expected to total 20,358,000 head, 4 percent less than a year ago. This decline would be the largest for any year since 1949. The 13 Western sheep States (11 Western States, South Dakota, and Texas) are expected to produce 4 percent fewer lambs and the 35 Native sheep States 5 percent fewer than in 1961.

The current lamb crop is smaller in size, because the number of breeding ewes 1-year-old and older on farms and ranches last January 1, was down 4 percent from 1961, and the number of ewes lambs under 1-year-old was 10 percent below January 1, 1961. The lamb crop percentage (number of lambs saved per 100 ewes 1-year-old or older on farms January 1) this year, at 94 percent, was off one point from a year earlier. The lambing percentage in both the Western and Native States at 90 and 104, respectively, was off one point each from a year earlier.

Second Half Slaughter Supplies Down

The number of sheep and lambs on farms January 1 has varied between 30 and 33 million head during the past 13 years. The inventory dropped 203,000 head in 1960 and 1,521,000 in 1961. The January 1, 1962 inventory of 31,446,000 head of sheep and lambs was the lowest beginning inventory since 1958.

Commercial slaughter of sheep and lambs in every month of 1961, with the exception of September, was larger than in the same months of 1960. This situation continued until March of this year, when slaughter dropped below year-earlier rates. Commercial slaughter has averaged 9 percent under year-earlier from March through June.

Marketings of sheep and lambs in the second half of this year probably will be off somewhat more than the 4 percent smaller lamb crop would indicate. The early lamb crop was less than 1 percent smaller than in 1961. Thus, a greater percentage of all ewes lambed early this year, and the late lamb crop is probably down about 5 percent from 1961. Hence, sheep and lamb slaughter is expected to be 5 to 6 percent under last year during the last half of this year.

If sheep and lamb slaughter the last half of this year is 5 to 6 percent under the comparable period last year, sheep numbers next January will be about 4 percent below the 31.4 million head on farms at the beginning of this year. This would be the smallest sheep and lamb inventory since 1950.

Sheep and lamb marketings in the first quarter of next year would be expected to follow a more normal pattern than they have the past 2 years, when a sizable number of lambs from the stock sheep inventory went to slaughter.

Table 7.--Balance sheet for sheep and lambs, United States, 1956 to date

Year	Number on farms Jan. 1	Born during year	Net imports	Slaughter	Deaths	Adjustment factor	Number on farms Dec. 31
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
1956	31,157	20,336	-57	16,328	4,322	-132	30,654
1957	30,654	19,810	-18	15,292	4,353	416	31,217
1958	31,217	20,686	22	14,495	4,350	-474	32,606
1959	32,606	21,120	54	15,528	4,539	-543	33,170
1960	33,170	21,283	13	16,239	4,611	-642	32,932
1961	32,967	21,277	-27	17,543	4,571	666	31,446
1962	31,446	20,358	1/ -15	1/ 16,700	2/ 4,300	---	30.2-30.5

1/ Partly estimated. 2/ Forecast.

Ewe lambs held over in the inventory will be needed as replacements for the breeding ewe flock, considering that a below-average number of ewe lambs probably were added this year. This would put sheep and lamb slaughter in in the first quarter of 1963 about 7 to 8 percent below the first quarter of this year.

Lamb Prices Up

Prices received by farmers for lambs were below the same month a year earlier from May 1960 until April 1962, reflecting large slaughter supplies. Lamb prices have improved considerably from the recent January-April level of $16.40 and in mid-July were $19.10, or $3.10 higher than in mid-July 1961. Prices have declined during the summer and fall every year since World War II, except in 1950 when the Korean War began. But in light of improved lamb prices this spring and the expected decrease in slaughter through late summer and into fall, prices probably will remain significantly above last year through the rest of this year.

Shorn Wool Production Down 5 Percent From 1961

Shorn wool production this year is expected to total 248,806,000 pounds, grease basis, which would be a 5 percent drop from 1961, but 3 percent higher than the 1951-60 average. This prospective decline is attributed to 4 percent fewer sheep to be shorn and estimated weights of 8.47 pounds per fleece compared with 8.50 pounds in 1961. Both of these figures, though, are above the 10-year average.

In the 13 Western sheep States (11 Western States, South Dakota, and Texas) shorn wool production this year is estimated to be 179,090,000 pounds, 6 percent below the 1961 clip and 4 percent above average. So far, wool production is lower than in 1961 in all of these States except New Mexico, which shows an increase of 1 percent. The expected number of sheep shorn and to be shorn in the 13 Western sheep States in 1962 is 5 percent less than last year but 4 percent greater than average. This year's average fleece weight of 8.85 pounds for these States is below last year's 8.92 pounds. A wool clip of 69,716,000 pounds is expected in the 35 Native States--down 3 percent from last year and slightly below average. This reduction is a result of a 3 percent decline in the number of sheep shorn, because average weight per fleece at 7.61 pounds, in these States, is slightly heavier than the 7.56 pounds in 1961. Compared with last year, 25 of the Native sheep States show a decline in wool production, 3 States are unchanged, and 7 States expect a larger wool clip.

RETAIL MEAT OUTLOOK

Meat supplies for civilian consumption exceeded year-earlier levels in the first 6 months of this year. The gain was due to increased beef and pork production, as veal, lamb, and mutton output totaled below the first half of 1961.

Total meat supplies were augmented by larger imports of meat in the first half of this year than last. January-June per capita consumption of all meat was over a pound above the 79.7 pounds consumed in these months last year. Retail meat prices were below year-earlier levels during the first quarter of 1962. These prices in the second quarter rose above those a year earlier, but averaged slightly less for the first 6 months of this year than in the same months of 1961. Lower pork prices were primarily responsible for the difference.

Average urban retail meat prices (BLS series) were below year-earlier levels from December 1961 through April 1962 but above these levels in last May and June. The relatively stable prices this year are in contrast to a decline a year ago. Last June, the index of retail prices was 100.2 (1957-59=100), 1.4 percent above June 1961. Retail prices of all major meat cuts were above a year earlier, except for some pork items.

USDA index of prices received by farmers for meat animals in June was 305 (1910-14=100), 6.3 percent above a year earlier. All classes of meat animals were priced above a year earlier.

The chart, p. 20, traces the monthly retail price for pork cuts, Choice beef, and Choice lamb.

Meat production will be seasonally low throughout this summer but a little above output last summer. Average retail meat prices likely will increase and average as high or a little higher than a year before.

Retail beef prices are not expected to change much during the remainder of this summer. However, these prices are expected to edge lower this fall and by late fall probably will be below a year earlier.

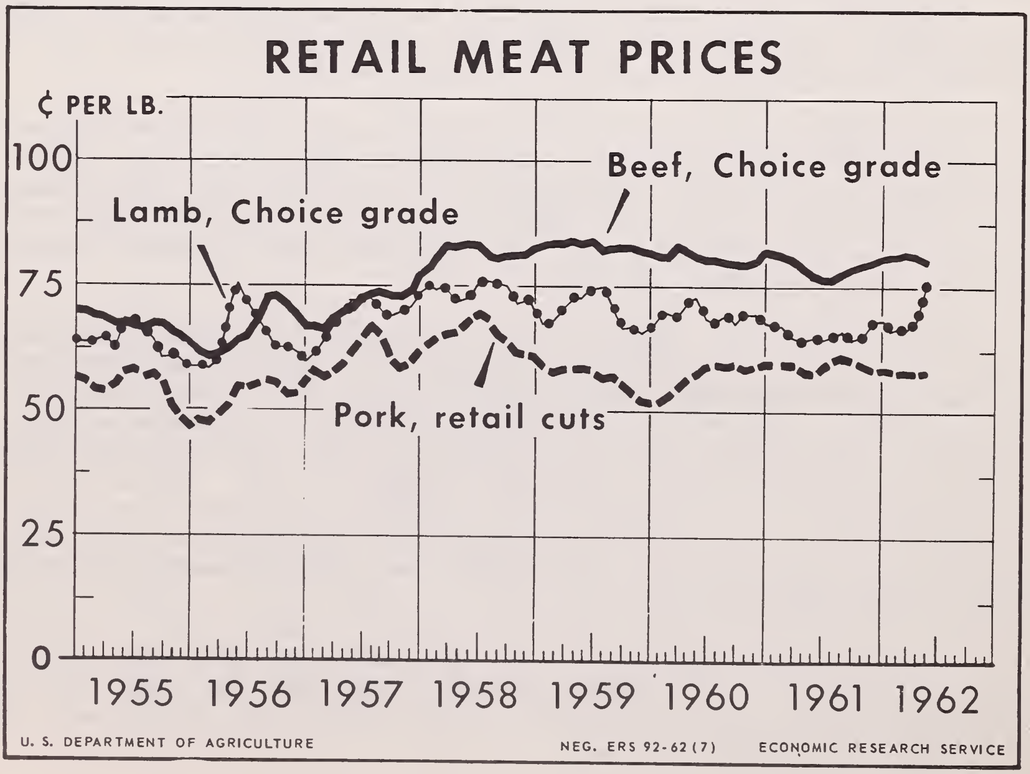
Retail veal prices so far this year generally have exceeded those of a year earlier, as veal production has continued below year-earlier levels. Calf slaughter will increase seasonally this summer and fall, but a large gain is not expected. Hence, veal supplies per person probably will not exceed those of a year earlier and prices, although easing, likely will continue above those of last summer and fall.

Pork supplies this summer and fall will total less than a year before. In fall, hogs slaughtered will come primarily from last spring's pig crop, which was 2 percent smaller than in 1961. Supplies for consumption this summer have been augmented by larger withdrawals from cold storage than a year earlier, but July-December consumption per person will be down from the 31.3 pounds consumed per person in these 6 months of 1961. Retial pork prices rose sharply last June and in early July probably were above a year ago. Some further increases in retail pork prices are likely before they begin a late summer and fall decline. During this time, they probably will average a little above a year earlier.

Sheep and lamb slaughter through this summer and fall will continue significantly below a year earlier, providing less lamb and mutton than during these months in 1961. Lamb and mutton prices likely will average well above prices during last summer and fall.

Table 8.--Average retail price of meat per pound, United States, by months, 1959 to date

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Av.
	Pork, retail cuts												
	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.
1959	61.6	58.7	57.5	58.0	58.2	58.5	58.1	56.5	57.2	55.5	53.8	52.2	57.1
1960	51.9	51.9	53.0	54.8	56.1	57.6	59.1	59.8	58.7	59.1	58.7	59.2	56.7
1961	59.5	59.7	59.5	59.1	57.9	57.9	59.1	60.1	61.0	60.5	58.4	57.7	59.2
1962	58.2	58.1	57.4	57.9	57.5	58.0							
	Beef, Choice grade												
1959	82.6	83.3	83.2	83.3	83.7	83.3	83.6	82.0	82.1	82.2	82.3	81.9	82.8
1960	81.5	81.0	81.2	82.6	82.1	81.5	80.9	80.8	80.0	79.6	79.7	80.5	81.0
1961	82.1	81.8	81.3	80.6	79.4	77.3	76.3	76.6	77.7	78.1	79.0	79.6	79.2
1962	80.2	80.8	80.8	81.1	80.7	79.8							
	Lamb, Choice grade												
1959	70.4	68.3	68.3	71.5	73.3	73.3	74.1	75.0	71.7	67.4	67.1	66.6	70.6
1960	66.9	69.2	70.4	69.2	71.9	73.3	68.9	68.0	70.1	68.8	69.9	69.9	69.7
1961	68.0	67.9	67.3	64.8	64.0	65.0	64.4	65.0	66.3	64.8	65.3	68.2	65.9
1962	68.4	66.9	67.0	66.5	68.7	76.7							



OUTLOOK FOR SAUSAGE MEATS

The weekly rate of sausage production under Federal inspection (including loaf and canned items) averaged 49.5 million pounds in April-June, about 1 percent above a year earlier. Output of each of the types of sausage was close to a year earlier.

Sausage production likely will decline seasonally during the next few months in anticipation of a probable reduction in demand with the coming of cooler weather this fall. Sausage meat supplies probably will be near those of last summer. Much depends on the timing and extent of the expected increase in cow slaughter. (See chart below.)

Cow slaughter in the first half of this year was 2 percent smaller than in January-June 1961. This has resulted in higher prices for processing beef and has encouraged a relatively high level of imports.

Imports of meat through June were about 36 percent larger than in 1961. Most of the gain was in fresh and frozen boneless beef for further processing. Mutton (mostly boneless) imports dropped sharply in April-June and were less than a year earlier. Pork imports also were higher, with canned hams showing the largest gain.

If cow slaughter in the last half of 1962 increases as much as now seems likely, meat imports probably will drop from present levels and fall below year-earlier rates during the late summer and fall.

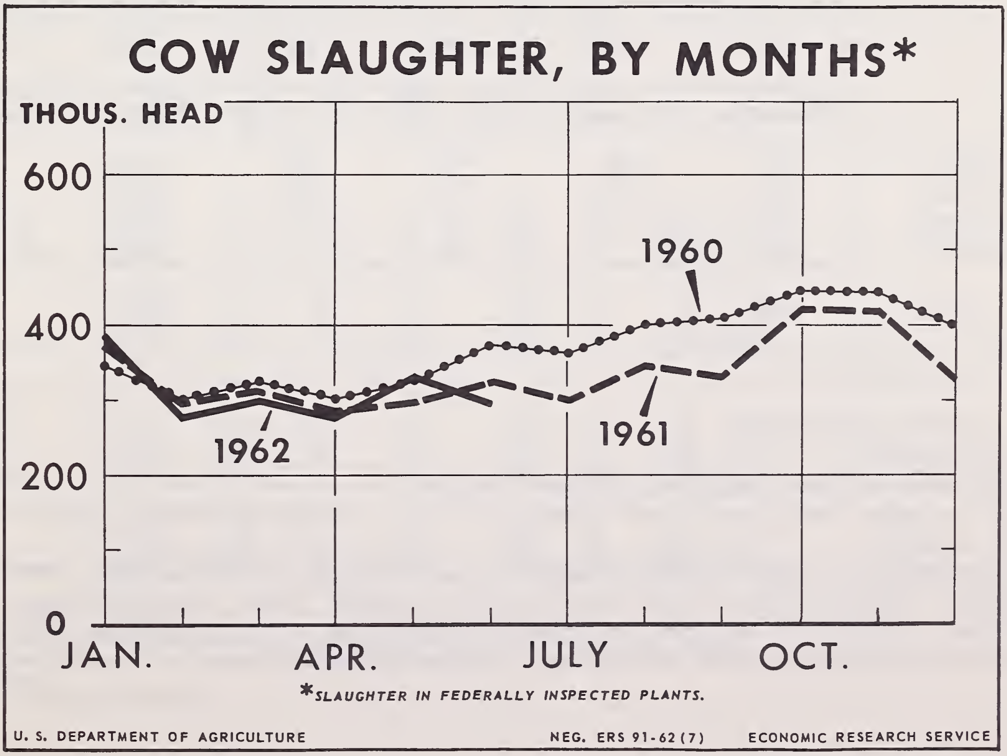


Table 9.--Cattle and hog slaughter, meat imports and stocks, and sausage production, by quarters 1961 to date

Period	Federally inspected slaughter					
	Cattle				Hogs	
	Total		Cows			
	1961	1962	1961	1962	1961	1962
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
Jan.-Mar.	4,695	4,897	980	954	16,932	17,635
Apr.-June	5,041	5,006	906	899	15,738	16,493
July-Sept.	5,143	1/5,300	980	2/1,150	14,674	1/14,750
Oct.-Dec.	5,089		1,167		18,288	
Year	19,968		4,033		65,632	

Period	Imports all meat 3/		Meat stocks in cold storage beginning of quarter 4/		Sausage production 5/	
	1961	1962	1961	1962	1961	1962
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
Jan.-Mar.	173	297	423	485	569	599
Apr.-June	230	255	477	552	635	644
July-Sept.	268	2/240	496	517	617	2/625
Oct.-Dec.	248		381		597	
Year	919				2,418	

1/ Partly estimated.
2/ Forecast.
3/ Total red meat imports, product weight.
4/ Includes beef, veal, pork, lamb, mutton, and canned meats in public cold storage.
5/ Federally inspected production of all sausage, including loaf, head cheese, jellied products and the following canned items: Luncheon meat, viennas, franks and weiners in brine, deviled ham, other potted or deviled meat food products, bulk sausage and sausage in oil.

Supply and distribution of meat, by months, January 1962 to date

Meat and period	Commercially produced								Total 2/		
	Supply			Distribution						Civilian consumption	
							Civilian consumption				
	Production	Beginning stocks	Imports	Exports and shipments	Ending stocks	Military	Total	Per person 1/	Production	Total	Per person
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Lb.
Beef:											
January	1,327	200	99	4	184	30	1,408	7.7	---	---	---
February	1,110	184	73	4	169	28	1,166	6.4	---	---	---
March	1,232	169	146	4	172	31	1,340	7.4	---	---	---
1st quarter	3,669	200	318	12	172	89	3,914	21.5			3/22
April	1,140	172	94	4	163	29	1,209	6.6	---	---	---
May	1,313	163	78	5	142	32	1,375	7.5	---	---	---
June	1,274	141	108	3/4	127	28	1,364	7.5	---	---	---
2nd quarter	3,727	172	280	3/13	127	89	3,950	21.6			
Veal:											
January	82	11	1	1	9	3	81	.5	---	---	---
February	68	9	2	4/	8	2	69	.4	---	---	---
March	77	8	2	4/	8	2	77	.4	---	---	---
1st quarter	227	11	5	1	8	7	227	1.3			3/1.4
April	70	8	2	4/	8	4	68	.4			
May	78	8	2	4/	7	4	77	.4			
June	72	7	1	4/	7	3	70	.4			
2nd quarter	220	8	5	3/1	7	11	214	1.2			
Lamb and mutton:											
January	77	18	20	4/	16	4/	99	.5	---	---	---
February	66	16	6	4/	16	4/	72	.4	---	---	---
March	68	16	27	1	18	4/	92	.5	---	---	---
1st quarter	211	18	53	1	18	4/	263	1.4			3/1.5
April	66	18	11	4/	19	4/	76	.4			
May	65	19	6	4/	18	4/	72	.4			
June	56	18	6	4/	16	4/	64	.4			
2nd quarter	187	18	23	3/1	16	4/	211	1.2			
Pork:											
January	1,016	200	18	10	210	17	997	5.5	---	---	---
February	865	210	16	9	235	18	829	4.6	---	---	---
March	1,010	235	20	10	280	18	957	5.3	---	---	---
1st quarter	2,891	200	54	29	280	53	2,783	15.3			3/16.5
April	932	280	17	11	316	17	885	4.9			
May	965	316	20	14	339	19	929	5.1			
June	852	339	19	3/10	292	16	892	4.9			
2nd quarter	2,749	280	56	3/35	292	52	2,706	14.8			
All meat:											
January	2,502	429	138	15	419	50	2,585	14.2	---	---	---
February	2,109	419	97	13	428	48	2,136	11.7	---	---	---
March	2,387	428	195	15	478	51	2,466	13.5	---	---	---
1st quarter	6,998	429	430	43	478	149	7,187	39.5			3/41.5
April	2,208	478	124	15	506	50	2,238	12.3			
May	2,421	506	106	19	506	55	2,453	13.4			
June	2,254	505	134	3/14	435	48	2,396	13.1			
2nd quarter	6,883	478	364	3/48	435	153	7,089	38.8			

1/ Derived from estimates by months of population eating out of civilian food supplies.
2/ Includes production and consumption from farm slaughter.
3/ Estimated.
4/ Less than 500,000 pounds.

Selected price statistics for meat animals and meat

Item	Unit	1961 June	1961 July	1962 May	1962 June	1962 July
Cattle and calves						
Beef steers, slaughter	Dollars per					
Chicago, Prime	100 pounds	23.44	23.08	28.32	27.14	27.90
Choice	do.	22.45	22.38	26.02	25.25	26.50
Good	do.	21.65	21.74	24.33	23.90	24.95
Standard	do.	20.24	20.35	21.38	21.23	22.31
Commercial	do.	---	17.50	---	---	22.00
Utility	do.	19.03	18.92	19.64	19.71	20.90
All grades	do.	22.30	22.23	25.62	24.91	26.12
Omaha, all grades	do.	21.24	21.39	24.13	23.86	24.89
Sioux City, all grades	do.	21.32	21.40	24.31	23.77	24.89
Cows, Chicago						
Commercial	do.	16.36	14.87	16.50	16.90	15.94
Utility	do.	16.52	15.02	15.91	16.42	15.31
Cutter	do.	16.41	14.68	15.39	15.94	14.95
Canner	do.	15.19	13.27	13.76	14.35	13.62
Vealers, Choice, Chicago	do.	---	---	---	---	---
Stocker and feeder steers, Kansas City 1/	do.	21.81	21.70	24.18	23.23	23.75
Price received by farmers						
Beef cattle	do.	19.40	19.20	21.10	20.80	21.00
Cows	do.	15.10	14.20	14.60	14.80	14.60
Steers and heifers	do.	21.10	21.10	23.50	23.10	23.40
Calves	do.	23.10	22.90	25.20	24.80	24.80
Hogs						
Barrows and gilts, U. S. No. 1, 2 & 3, Chicago						
180-200 pounds	do.	17.35	17.97	---	---	---
200-220 pounds	do.	17.52	18.31	16.22	17.76	18.85
220-240 pounds	do.	17.25	18.20	15.96	17.49	18.68
240-270 pounds	do.	16.73	17.78	15.40	16.92	18.16
All weights	do.	16.74	17.85	15.64	16.93	18.34
Barrows and gilts, 8 markets 2/	do.	16.60	17.87	15.51	16.87	18.30
Sows, Chicago	do.	13.58	14.19	13.19	13.84	14.62
Price received by farmers	do.	15.80	16.60	15.30	16.10	16.90
Hog-corn price ratio 3/						
Chicago, barrows and gilts		15.0	15.7	13.6	14.9	16.4
Price received by farmers, all hogs		15.3	15.8	14.9	15.6	16.2
Sheep and lambs	Dollars per					
Sheep	100 pounds					
Slaughter ewes, Good and Choice, Chicago	do.	4.57	4.51	4/4.50	4/4.50	4/4.59
Price received by farmers	do.	4.80	4.81	5.51	5.44	5.56
Lamb						
Slaughter, Choice, Chicago	do.	19.58	18.31	4/17.88	23.30	22.30
Feeder, Good and Choice, Omaha	do.	14.95	14.44	---	5/16.00	5/16.00
Price received by farmers	do.	15.90	16.00	17.30	19.50	19.10
All meat animals						
Index number price received by farmers (1910-14=100)		287	289	303	305	310
Meat						
Wholesale, Chicago	Dollars per					
Steer beef carcass, Choice, 500-600 pounds	100 pounds	38.00	37.81	42.98	41.84	42.64
Lamb carcass, Choice, 45-55 pounds	do.	40.08	40.79	40.80	50.31	47.89
Composite hog products:						
Including lard						
71.90 pounds fresh	Dollars	18.40	19.42	17.34	18.34	19.50
Average per 100 pounds	do.	25.59	27.01	24.12	25.51	27.12
71.01 pounds fresh and cured	do.	22.02	22.63	21.36	22.42	23.60
Average per 100 pounds	do.	31.01	31.87	30.08	31.57	33.23
Excluding lard						
55.99 pounds fresh and cured	do.	19.89	20.50	19.20	20.26	21.44
Average per 100 pounds	do.	35.52	36.61	34.29	36.18	38.22
Retail, United States average	Cents					
Beef, Choice grade	per pound	77.3	76.3	80.7	79.8	
Pork, retail cuts	do.	57.9	59.1	57.5	58.0	
Lamb, Choice grade	do.	65.0	64.4	68.7	76.7	
Index number meat prices (BLS)						
Wholesale (1957-59=100)		91.2	94.0	93.9	94.4	
Retail (1957-59=100) 6/		98.8	99.2	100.2	100.2	

1/ Average all weights and grades.
2/ Chicago, St. Louis N. S. Y., Kansas City, Omaha, Sioux City, S. St. Joseph, S. St. Paul, and Indianapolis.
3/ Number bushels of corn equivalent in value to 100 pounds of live hogs.
4/ Good grade.
5/ Choice grade.
6/ Includes beef and veal, pork, leg of lamb and other meats.

Selected marketing, slaughter and stocks statistics for meat animals and meat

Item	Unit	1961 June	1961 July	1962 May	1962 June	1962 July
Meat animal marketings						
Index number (1947-49=100)		127	113	138	123	
Stocker and feeder shipments to						
8 Corn Belt States	1,000					
Cattle and calves	head	274	249	432	270	
Sheep and lambs	do.	142	192	189	183	
Slaughter under Federal inspection						
Number slaughtered						
Cattle	do.	1,785	1,627	1,766	1,718	
Steers	do.	1,057	978	1,063	1,065	
Heifers	do.	380	327	350	337	
Cows	do.	325	299	330	295	
Bulls and stags	do.	23	23	23	21	
Calves	do.	364	341	398	342	
Sheep and lambs	do.	1,252	1,126	1,197	1,062	
Hogs	do.	5,093	4,320	5,800	5,041	
Percentage sows	Percent	13	15	8	12	
Average live weight per head						
Cattle	Pounds	1,042	1,044	1,038	1,034	
Calves	do.	234	232	220	229	
Sheep and lambs	do.	94	93	97	93	
Hogs	do.	252	247	246	249	
Average production						
Beef, per head	do.	609	609	602	602	
Veal, per head	do.	132	131	125	130	
Lamb and mutton, per head	do.	46	45	47	46	
Pork, per head	do.	143	142	145	145	
Pork, per 100 pounds live weight	do.	57	58	59	58	
Lard, per head	do.	36	34	32	34	
Lard, per 100 pounds live weight	do.	14	14	13	14	
Total production	Million					
Beef	pounds	1,085	988	1,061	1,031	
Veal	do.	48	44	50	45	
Lamb and mutton	do.	57	51	56	48	
Pork	do.	729	613	838	731	
Lard	do.	184	148	186	169	
Commercial slaughter 1/						
Number slaughtered	1,000					
Cattle	head	2,268	2,084	2,256	2,191	
Calves	do.	568	544	584	518	
Sheep and lambs	do.	1,444	1,315	1,391	1,243	
Hogs	do.	6,013	5,155	6,750	5,942	
Total production	Million					
Beef	pounds	1,333	1,223	1,313	1,274	
Veal	do.	79	74	78	72	
Lamb and mutton	do.	66	60	65	56	
Pork	do.	854	723	965	852	
Lard	do.	205	168	208	190	
Cold storage stocks first of month						
Beef	do.	153	155	163	141	127
Veal	do.	11	11	8	7	7
Lamb and mutton	do.	24	26	19	18	16
Pork	do.	269	240	316	338	292
Total meat and meat products 2/	do.	523	496	579	585	517

1/ Federally inspected, and other wholesale and retail.

2/ Includes stocks of canned meats in cooler in addition to the four meats listed.

LIST OF TABLES

Standard Summary Tables

The next issue of the Livestock and Meat Situation is scheduled for release October 4, 1962.

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